

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 COA-02 IO-14 L-03

EB-11 SCI-06 COME-00 EPA-04 CEQ-02 CG-00 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SWF-02 AGR-20 FMC-04 JUSE-00 NSF-04 ACDA-19 CEA-02

CIEP-03 PM-07 H-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /237 W

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R 301558Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3096

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

INFO DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5056

CARACAS FOR USDEL LOS, PARIS FOR OECD, SECDEF FOR LOS TASK FORCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, SENV, ECIN, SL, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE FISHERY COOPERATION

REF: MONROVIA 4850

1. SUMMARY: WORKING GROUP ON MANO RIVER UNION (LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE) JOINT FISHERY PROTECTION AGREEMENT HAS COMPLETED ITS PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATION TO TWO GOVERNMENTS. IT  
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RECOMMENDS A JOINT EXCLUSIVE FISHERY IN THE QTE TERRITORIAL

WATERS UNQTE OF BOTH STATES, JOINT PROTECTIVE PATROL, AND JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, QUESTION OF EXTENT OF TERRITORIAL SEA TEMPORARILY LAID TO REST BY ACCEPTING BOTH SIERRA LEONE'S CLAIM TO 200 MILES AND LIBERIA'S 12 MILES PENDING RESOLUTION OF ISSUE BY LOS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL REPORTED THAT LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE, AS MANO RIVER UNION (MRU) ARE SEEKING AGREEMENT ON JOINT NON-MILITARY PATROL COMMAND TO REGULATE FISHERY AND POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES IN QTE TERRITORIAL WATERS UNQTE OF BOTH STATES. EMB HAS NOW RECEIVED FROM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN COPY OF REPORT OF JULY 15-19, 1974, MEETING OF MANO RIVER UNION JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE COOPERATION. WITH REGARD TO FISHING, THIS REPORT STATES GOALS OF MRU AS (A) SECRETARIAT OF MRU TO MAKE REQUEST TO FAO FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT DEEP SEA FISHING OPERATIONS. (B) THAT BOTH NATIONS GRANT RECIPROCAL FISHING RIGHTS TO EACH OTHER, (C) THAT BOTH NATIONS UNDERTAKE A JOINT PROGRAM OF PROTECTION OF FISHERIES AND RESOURCES IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF EACH, (D) THAT JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAM BE UNDERTAKEN WITH RESEARCH VESSEL PROVIDED BY TWO COUNTRIES, (E) THAT JOINT NATIONAL FISHERIES SURVEY BE UNDERTAKEN TO OBTAIN DATA FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING INDUSTRY, AND (F) THAT TERRITORIAL WATERS LIMITS OF BOTH NATIONS (LIBERIA CLAIMS 3 MILES TERRITORIAL, FURTHER 9 EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES; SIERRA LEONE CLAIMS 200 MILES) BE HARMONIZED, AND THAT DECISION BE MADE FOLLOWING 1974 LOS CONFERENCE.

3. EMB HAS ALSO OBTAINED COPY OF REPORT OF MRU WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES WHICH MET MONROVIA AUGUST 8-9. REPORT, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO MRU MEETING ON FISHERIES HELD FREETOWN AUGUST 26-28 CONTAINED PROPOSED 20 YEAR AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY BOTH NATIONS AND PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR FISHERY PROTECTION MEASURES TAKEN UNDER THE AGREEMENT. PROPOSED AGREEMENT CONTAINS FOLLOWING PROVISIONS: (A) RECIPROCAL FISHING RIGHTS FOR BOTH NATIONS' NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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VESSELS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF OTHER NATION OUTSIDE OF RESTRICTED FISHING ZONE OF 2 MILES RESERVED FOR INDIGENOUS CANOE FISHING, (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT FISHERY PATROL WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF SIGNING AGREEMENT. PATROL TO PREVENTY ENTRY UNAUTHORIZED VESSELS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF BOTH STATES, (C) FORMATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT, AND

(D) REGULATIONS TO BE DRAWN UP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT SHALL BECOME PART OF AGREEMENT.

4. DRAFT TEXT REPORTED REFTEL WAS RETAINED IN ITS ENTIRETY AS PART OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO BE AGREED UPON UNDER JOINT FISHERY AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, FURTHER REGULATIONS WERE ADDED SETTING FORTH LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL VESSELS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, PROHIBITING DYNAMITING AND POISONING OF FISH, AND SETTING MINIMUM TRAWL-NET MESH SIZES. REGULATIONS ALSO DEFINE TERRITORIAL WATERS AS QTE THAT PART OF THE OPEN SEA WITHIN TWO HUNDRED NAUTICAL MILES OFF THE COAST OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE MEASURED FROM THE LOW WATER MARK; AND THAT PART OF THE OPEN SEA WHICH EXTENDS TO A DISTANCE OF TWELVE (12) NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE BASE LINE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA UNQTE.

5. EMB PRESUMES THAT 200 MILE ISSUE AND NEED FOR QTE HARMONIZED UNQTE TERRITORIAL SEA BEING LAID TO REST UNTIL AFTER LOS CONFERENCE SETS NEW INTERNATIONAL RULES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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